

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eggert in view of either Barbaza, et al. or Yavin.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner to their representative during a telephone interview on January 11, 2006. During the interview, all claims and prior art of record were discussed. Proposed amendments were also discussed, resulting in cancellation of pending claims 1-37 and addition of claims 38-67. Support for the new claims can be found in the originally presented claims, and additionally in the specification at, e.g., Figures 4-5 and the associated description.

Applicants believe claims 38-67 are allowable because none of the prior art of records discloses or suggests a curved portion of a ceramic shell for protecting an occupant, wherein the curved portion “transitions a substantially vertical orientation of a backrest portion of the ceramic seat shell into a substantially horizontal orientation of a seat portion of the ceramic seat shell, wherein the curved portion having at least one side portion, the side portion extending forward and including at least one curved surface, wherein the side portion and the curved portion are formed of a monolithic piece of ceramic material,” which is recited, in one form or another, in all of the claims.

Serial No.: 10/656,332  
Art Unit: 3636

Attorney's Docket No.: SGP-150  
Page 10

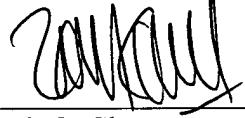
In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Date: January 26, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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